AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for managing ~~machine~~ printing apparatus operation options and configuration comprising:

providing a master key software operation key separable from the printing apparatus~~machine~~;

providing a subsequently installed software operation key separable from the printing apparatus~~machine~~, the subsequently installed software operation key further comprising a memory, with a programmable serial region and an option code;

placing the subsequently installed software operation key into the printing apparatus~~machine~~;

reading the programmable serial region of the memory and if found blank, initializing with a printing apparatus machine identification number;

comparing the content of the programmable serial region if not blank with the printing apparatus machine identification number;

reading the memory and installing the option code into the master key software operation key; and,

operating the printing apparatus ~~machine~~ in accordance with the option code in the master key software operation key.

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the printing apparatus ~~machine~~ is a multi-function office device.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the memory is a non-volatile type of memory.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the software operation key is a CRUM.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the machine identification number is the machine serial number.

7.   (Original) A printing machine comprising:

a master key software operations key separable from the machine;

a subsequently installed software operations key separable from the machine, further comprising a memory, the memory having at least an option code region, and a one time programmable serial region;

an option code written into the option code region of the memory suitable for directing the printing machine to operate in a particular configuration; and,

a control system to access the one time programmable serial region of the memory and determine thereby if the option code in the option code region of the subsequently installed software operations key should be installed into the master key software operations key to configure the printing machine.

8.   (Original) The printing machine of claim 7 wherein the memory is non-volatile memory.

9.   (Original) The printing machine of claim 8 wherein the non-volatile memory is an EEPROM.

10.   (Original) The printing machine of claim 8 wherein the non-volatile memory is a CRUM.

11.   (Original) The printing machine of claim 7 wherein the option code directs the printing machine to configure as a scanner.

12.   (Original) The printing machine of claim 11 wherein the option code directs the printing machine to configure with a scan to email mode.

13.   (Original) The printing machine of claim 11 wherein the option code directs the printing machine to configure with a scan to internet fax mode.

14.   (Original) The printing machine of claim 7 wherein the option code directs the printing machine to configure for faster operation.

15.   (Original) The printing machine of claim 7 wherein the option code directs the printing machine to configure for job based accounting.

16.   (Original)   A method for managing machine operation options and configuration comprising:

    providing a master key software operation key separable from the machine the master key software operation key further comprising a first memory, with a first programmable serial region and a first option code;

    providing a subsequently installed software operation key separable from the machine, the subsequently installed software operation key further comprising a second memory, with a second programmable serial region and a second option code;

    placing the master key software operation key into the machine;

    reading the first programmable serial region of the first memory and if found blank, initializing with a machine identification number;

    comparing the content of the first programmable serial region if not blank with the machine identification number;

    placing the subsequently installed software operation key into the machine;

    reading the second programmable serial region of the second memory and if found blank, initializing with the machine identification number;

    comparing the content of the second programmable serial region if not blank with the machine identification number;

    reading the second memory and installing the second option code into the master key software operation key; and,

    operating the machine in accordance with the first option code and the second option code in the master key software operation key.

17.   (Currently Amended)   The methodsoftware operations key of claim 16 wherein the first memory and the second memory are an EEPROM.

18.   (Currently Amended)   The methodsoftware operations key of claim 16 wherein the second memory is a CRUM.

19.   (Currently Amended)   The ~~method~~software operations key of claim 17 wherein the machine identifier is the machine serial number.